REPORT OF THE MISSING LINKS TEAM

Purpose

Although over 450 miles of recreational trails exist within the park lands of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, needs for trails exist in the areas outside of the established park system. For example, trails provide linkages between parks and from residential areas into parks. Trail linkages enhance the park experience for visitors and help to bring visitors into the parks. Some of these trails are located on privately owned land and their future use may be restricted due to development or fencing of property. Other regional and historical trails have been planned by local, state, or national agencies and jurisdictions and linkages are needed to complete these. If trails are not formalized through right-of-way acquisition or master plan amendments, they may be lost eventually to public use. The goal of this team was to identify these "missing trail links" and to promote their protection by public agencies.

Process

In order to identify the trails which are actively used by the public, we solicited input from fourteen organizations whose members we believed use trails in the Santa Monica Mountains regularly. The organizations included park agencies, environmental organizations and homeowners organizations. A letter was sent to these organizations requesting their input to help identify trails that they felt needed public protection (see Attachment A for a text of the letter).

In 1996, twelve organizations and/or individuals provided comments on trails they wished to have protected. Unless a trail was deemed to be too short to be significant within the region, or the description of the trail route provided was unclear, all recommended trails were included in the list included in this report. Comments concerning desired multiple use trail connections were both referred to the Trail System Team and are included here for consideration by the implementing agencies without recommendation. Additional links were added to the list in response to comments received following the May, 1997, public open houses.

Relationship to Other Trail Plans

It is important to note that Los Angeles County has adopted a Master Plan for trails in the Santa Monica Mountains region. A copy of the map from this plan is included as Map 2. This plan allows the County to acquire easements from property owners developing land on which a master-planned trail is located. Some of the trails listed in our recommendations are included in this plan which we have noted by including the Los Angeles County plan reference. Other links are in addition to the trails already identified in the Los Angeles County trails plan. As the master plan was last updated in 1983, we recommend that it be updated to reflect the current trail needs in the Santa Monica Mountains. Furthermore, we recommend that cities within the region use this plan as a base for developing their own trail plans.

Recommendations

The following is our list of the significant missing trail links in the Santa Monica Mountains. Map 3 - Additional Missing Links of the Santa Monica Mountains, shows the location of each trail on this list by number. While we believe that there are many more area trails that should be identified by local agencies for public protection, this list provides a good base for beginning this process.

For each missing link, we have identified needed actions, ranging from *right-of-way acquisition* to formally open the trail to public use; *trail construction* to build the trail where none currently exists; or a *master plan amendment* to formally include the trail in the park agency or local jurisdiction's land use plan. In some cases numbers are provided in parentheses, these refer to the trail segment's number in the Los Angeles County Trails Master Plan.

Trails in the Los Angeles County Unincorporated Area

1. TOPANGA/HENRY RIDGE TRAIL

This existing trail connects the Viewridge area with Mulholland Gateway Park. It is located on private property. This trail is identified on the Los Angeles County Trail Plan as the Topanga & Henry Ridge Trail to Serrania Park (Trail #12B).

Action needed: Right-of-way acquisition.

2. SANTA MARIA CANYON TRAIL

This proposed trail would connect the new Summit Valley/Edmund D. Edelman Park with Topanga State Park. This would provide an important link between two major parks in northern Topanga Canyon that are easily accessible to residents of the San Fernando Valley. The land is located on private property. This trail is identified on the Los Angeles County Master Plan as the Santa Maria Canyon Trail (Trail #14).

Action needed: Right-of-way acquisition, trail and trailhead construction.

3. STOKES RIDGE TRAIL

This trail should be extended east of Mulholland Highway to Calabasas Peak Motonvay. This trail is identified on the County Trail Plan as the Stokes Ridge Trail (Trail #13).

Action needed: Right-of-way acquisition and trail construction.

4. BRIDGE/SKIP CONNECTOR TRAILS

These existing trails connect the Henry Ridge Motonvay to Topanga Canyon Boulevard, traveling east/west through Greenleaf Canyon Road and Will Geer Road.

Action needed: Master plan amendment and right-of-way acquisition

5. MARQUETTE CONNECTOR TRAIL

This existing trail connects a residential neighborhood in Topanga Canyon to the Summit to Summit trail. According to residents, this trail has been used for at least 12 years.

Action needed: Master plan amendment and right-of-way acquisition

6. JANE'S TRAIL

This existing trail provides a connection from Topanga Skyline Drive at Chamera Lane north to the Summit to Summit Motorway. Reports were provided during the public comment period that this trail has been closed to public use.

Action needed: Master plan amendment and right-of-way acquisition.

7. TERRY'S TRAIL

This existing trail connects Tuna Canyon to Kerry Lane in the Femwood area.

Action needed: Master plan amendment and right-of-way acquisition.

8. FERING TRAIL

This existing trail provides a major connection between Paradise Lane and dirt Mulholland in the Northern part of Topanga Canyon.

Action needed: Master plan amendment and right-of-way acquisition.

9. NICHOLAS FLATS - CHARMLEE CONNECTOR TRAIL

This is a series of three existing trails which connect Nicholas Flats to Charmlee Park. This trail provides major access to the parks for residents and campers using the Decker Canyon City Camp. The trail begins at the southeast gate of Nicholas Flats and follows the fire road east to Decker Canyon Road at the wood bridge. From there, the trail continues east to Charmlee Park.

Action needed: Master plan amendment and right-of-way acquisition.

10. DECKER CITY CAMP TRAIL

This existing trail is used by campers as an alternative to Decker School Road. It begins at the northwest comer of the camp and heads north uphill to Decker School Road.

Action needed: Master plan amendment and right-of-way acquisition.

11. DECKER SCHOOL ROAD-MULHOLLAND CONNECTOR TRAIL

This existing trail is used to access National Park Service lands north of Decker School Road and connects to Mulholland.

Action needed: Master plan amendment and right-of-way acquisition.

12. COLD CREEK TRIBUTA R Y/GR EA T AMERICAN TRAIL

This existing trail was identified by the County as an alternative to the Cold Creek Trail. It is located on private property in the Monte Nido community. A significant piece of this trail was recently acquired by Los Angeles County and the Mountains Restoration Trust, however the complete trail providing a connection to Stunt Road should be protected.

Action needed: Complete right-of-way acquisition.

13. SOLSTICE CANYON TRAIL/BALLER MOTOR WAY

This existing trail is identified as #5 on the Los Angeles County Trail Plan. The trail is a vital North/South link connecting Solstice Canyon Park to Castro Peak, Corral Canyon and the Backbone Trail.

Documentation exists from numerous individuals who state that they have used this trail for many years.

Action needed: Right-of-way acquisition.

14. SOUTH LADYFACE TRAIL

This existing trail would connect the upper part of Kanan Road to Triunfo Canyon by way of Middle Triunfo Canyon.

Action needed: Master plan amendment and right-of-way acquisition.

15. UPPER LOBO CANYON

This existing trail would connect from Western Lobo Canyon to Hidden Highlands Road through the western end of Lobo Canyon. Private roads already exist in the area.

Action needed: Master plan amendment and right-of-way acquisition.

16. UPPER MULHOLLAND TRAIL

This existing trail would provide access to National Park Service property on the north face of Castro Peak along private roads that already exist in the area.

Action needed: Master plan amendment and right-of-way acquisition.

17. PARAMOUNTRANCH WEST

This existing trail would connect from Paramount Ranch to Kanan Road, following the path from the western edge of Paramount Ranch to Kanan Road to Gana Drive.

Action needed: Master plan amendment and right-of-way acquisition.

Trails In Ventura County

18. LAKE ELEANOR TRAIL

This proposed trail connects the Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency (COSCA) lands in Ventura County. Its proposed route is located on publicly owned land. COSCA has identified this link as a future trail within the Lake Eleanor Open Space area.

Action needed: Trail construction.

Trails in the City of Malibu

19. POINT DUME TRAIL

A trail is needed to connect the Point Dume area to the Zuma Ridge Trail. This can provide walking or bicycling access to Malibu Park schools. A crossing exists underneath Pacific Coast Highway at the Zuma Creek Bridge to Busch Drive and should be utilized for this purpose.

Action needed: Right-of-way acquisition.

20. FERNHILL TRAIL

This existing trail travels from Fernhill Drive in Point Dume to the Zuma Creek Bridge at Pacific Coast Highway by way of Grey Fox, Dume Drive and Heathercliff Road. It serves as a route for Point Dume area residents to use to exit the Point Dume area to the Santa Monica Mountains. The Coastal Commission has secured some offers-to-dedicate easements from property owners along the route.

Action needed: Accept offer-to-dedicate and complete right-of-way acquisition.

21. CLOVER HEIGHTS TRAIL

This existing trail connects the schools on Morning View Drive (Cabrillo Elementary, Malibu High) near Westward Beach to Harvester Street and upper Malibu park, providing a safer alternative for children currently walking or biking to school. The trail begins at Clover Heights and connects to a fire road that leads to the Equestrian Center (see Missing Link #28). The Coastal Commission has secured some offers-to-dedicate easements from property owners along the route.

Action needed: Accept offer-to-dedicate and complete right-of-way acquisition.

22. CALIFORNIA COASTAL TRAIL

This existing beach route links coastal recreation sites in 15 counties and the cities of San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego. It was designed to provide public access to and along California's 1100-mile coast as specified in the California Coastal Plan of 1975. In Malibu, its route is located on public beaches as well as private beaches with easement. Public access is sporadic along the coastline due to development. The trail should connect to the beach path in Pacific Palisades.

Action needed: Increase number of access ways to beach and improve signage along route of trail.

23. NICHOLAS RIDGE MOTORWAY

This existing trail follows the fire road from the Nicholas Flats southeast gate towards the ocean. It connects to the Malibu Riding and Tennis Club and Pacific Coast Highway. Access trail to Nicholas Flats, which is part of the Leo Cabrillo State Beach area.

Action needed: Right-of-way acquisition.

24. DECKER-EDISON CONNECTOR TRAIL

This existing trail is used by local residents to cross from the Encinal Canyon area to the Los Alisos Canyon area. It starts at the north end of Decker Edison Road and heads west downhill to Decker Road

Action needed: Right-of-way acquisition.

25. DECKER CANYON-BEACH CONNECTOR TRAIL

This existing trail is used to access the beach from the upper Decker Canyon area. It begins at Decker Edison Road and enters Charmlee Park.

Action needed: Right-of-way acquisition from Decker Edison Road to Charmlee park.

26. CHUMASH INDIAN TRAIL

This trail should travel from the Zuma/Trancas Canyon park land to Surfwood past Seaview. It runs through the Javid subdivision and the Coastal Commission has secured some offers to dedicate along the trail route.

Action needed: Accept offer-to-dedicate and complete right-of-way acquisition.

27. BEACH ACCESS TRAILS

All trails on Los Angeles County's trail master plan should be extended from PCH to the beach to provide for beach - mountain access. Examples include Tuna Canyon Trail, Malibu Creek Trail, Trancas Canyon Trail.

Action needed: Right-of-way acquisition, trail construction

28. MALIBU EQUESTRIAN CENTER TRAIL

The Coastal Commission required this trail dedication as a condition to the building of the Equestrian Center. This trail should travel north from the Center and connect to the Zuma Ridge Trail and the Coastal Slope Trail. From the south, the trail should extend to the Zuma Creek Bridge at Pacific Coast Highway. We believe that the Coastal Commission has secured offers-to dedicate along the route of the trail between Harvester and Cuthbert in the gully, however the trail continues between Harvester and the school. This trail keeps people from using Busch Road. Equestrian-friendly road shoulders are also needed along the streets surrounding the Equestrian Center. These improved shoulders should run along Seastar, Phillip, Harvester, Busch and Clover Heights (see Missing Link #21) to the Center. Another shoulder should follow Busch to the fire road to the Coastal Slope Trail,

and from Morning View to Merritt, Busch and Phillip. These improved shoulders would increase safety for riders traveling to and from the Equestrian Center.

Action needed: Accept offer-to-dedicate, complete right-of-way acquisition and improve road shoulders.

29. IZUMI CONNECTOR TRAIL

This existing trail connects the Coastal Slope trail to Escondido Beach through Escondido Creek under PCH. We believe that the Coastal Commission has secured some offers-to-dedicate along the trail route.

Action needed: Accept offer-to-dedicate, complete right-of-way acquisition.

30. WINDING WAY CONNECTORS

These existing routes from Via Escondido and Via Tapia serve as connectors to the Winding Way Trail which connects to the Coastal Slope. Road shoulders also need to be improved to accommodate equestrians along Via Escondido, Via Tapia and Winding Way Road. The Winding Way Trail also needs to be maintained.

Action needed: Acquire trail right-of-ways and improve road shoulders.

31. SWEETWATER MESA TRAIL

This existing trail connects park land (Adamson picnic ground) to the Coastal Slope Trail. The Coastal Commission has required easements for this trail, it parallels Serra Road.

Action needed: Accept offers-to-dedicate and complete right-of-way acquisitions.

Trails in the City of Los Angeles

32. LOS ANGELES RIVER/ANZA CONNECTOR

This proposed trail would connect from the new Valley Circle Interchange bridge of the 101 Freeway to the Los Angeles River and proposed route of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail (see Missing Link # 37). A 10 foot wide equestrian trail built onto the bridge should continue northeast along Arroyo Calabasas flood control channel and connect to Bell Creek and the Los Angeles river. This connector would link Los Angeles County and three cities: Calabasas, Hidden Hills, and Los Angeles. The Los Angeles City plan shows a future trail along Arroyo Calabasas.

Action needed: Right-of-way acquisition and flood control channel improvements to create a useable trail.

33. SUNSET BOULEVARD CONNECTOR

Complete the sidewalk on Sunset Boulevard between Los Liones and Pacific Coast Highway. **Action needed:** Road improvements.

Trails in Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Lands

34. SUMMIT VALLEY/EDMUND D. EDELMAN PARK

Trailheads and trails are needed in this park that was recently acquired by the Conservancy. Trailheads need to be protected from the public roads into the park. New trails are needed to connect Summit Valley and Viewridge, and thru the parkland east of Viewridge, south of Topanga Canyon Boulevard. The Conservancy should review the comments made by Viewridge Owners for Community and the Environment for more information.

Action needed: Trail and trailhead construction.

Trails Which Cross Jurisdictional Boundaries

35. SUMMIT TO SUMMIT MOTOR WAY

This is an existing dirt road connecting Old Topanga Canyon Road and Topanga Canyon Boulevard. It is mostly in Los Angeles County (unincorporated), with a small segment in the City of Calabasas. **Action needed:** Right-of-way acquisition.

36. CALABASAS PEAK MOTORWAY

This is an existing fire road between Old Topanga Canyon Road and Stunt Road. It is located on private property. This trail is identified on the Los Angeles County Trail Plan as part of the Calabasas/Cold Creek Trail (Trail #9), and is in the jurisdictions of Los Angeles County and the City of Calabasas. **Action needed:** Right-of-way acquisition and ensure open linkage between Calabasas Peak Motorway and Summit to Summit Motorway.

37. JUAN BAUTISTA DE ANZA NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

This is aproposed trail that has been recognized by the United States Congress as a National Historic Trail. The trail represents the route taken by Anza in 1775-76 when he led a contingent of colonists from what is now Mexico to found a colony for Spain in San Francisco. In the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, the trail route travels through the City of Los Angeles, the County of Los Angeles, Hidden Hills, Calabasas, Agoura Hills, Westlake Village, Thousand Oaks and Ventura County. The route is on mostly private property, though it does cross some park lands. The National Park Service guides the preservation and development of the trail, although its right-of-way must be acquired by local jurisdictions. This is the same alignment as that proposed in the National Park Service's *Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail: Comprehensive Management and Use Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement* (April, 1996).

Action needed: Right-of-way acquisition and trail construction.

38. COASTAL SLOPE TRAIL

Segments of this trail exist, but large parts need to be built. This proposed trail route crosses both private property and park land areas and is a major connector trail. This trail would connect the Malibu Creek State Park, Charmlee Park, Leo Carillo State Beach, Point Mugu State Park. It is identified on the County Trail Plan as the Coastal Slope Trail (#21). In Malibu, lateral connectors are needed from Solstice Canyon to the Coastal Slope Trail and from behind Pepperdine University and Malibu Country Estates to parallel Puerco Canyon to Coastal Slope. Other connector trails need to be preserved throughout the length of the trail. In Escondido Canyon, a slide exists that has caused the trail to be damaged. In Ramirez Canyon, west of the bridge to the Streisand Center, portions of the trail have been damaged due to water and need to be repaired and graded. Clear signage is needed along the trail path to inform trail users of the proper route. The trail route is in the jurisdictions of the Coastal Commission, Los Angeles County, Ventura County, Malibu, National Park Service and California Department of Parks and Recreation.

Action needed: Right-of-way acquisition and trail construction.

39. DECKER CONNECTOR TRAIL

This existing trail begins at the north end of Decker Edison Road and connects to the Nicholas Flats/Charmlee Connector Trail. This trail is in the jurisdictions of Los Angeles County and the

City of Malibu.

Action needed: Right-of-way acquisition

40. SWEETWATERTRAIL

This proposed trail would connect Sweetwater Canyon to Pacific Coast Highway and the Coastal Slope Trail. The route crosses land owned by the Mountains Restoration Trust and private property in the City of Malibu.

Action needed: Right-of-way acquisition and trail construction.

41. BACKBONE TRAIL LOOP

This is the last missing link of the Backbone Trail to complete its 60 mile length. Additional missing connector links are included here to connect the National Park Service properties at Circle X Ranch, a proposed campground on the east side of the intersection of Decker/Mulholland, the Arroyo Sequit Park, Malibu Springs and Leo Carillo State Park to Circle X. It would link two existing campgrounds and one proposed camp for a three-four day hike. It also connects to existing and proposed segments of the Backbone Trail to encompass Arroyo Sequit Park, Malibu Springs and Leo Carillo into the system for backbone Trail users. It provides unsurpassed views of south/southeastern Boney Ridge. It also connects into existing equestrian trails. Its route is on both private and public lands, in the jurisdictions of Los Angeles County, Ventura County, City of Malibu, the National Park Service and State Parks.

Action needed: Complete right-of-way acquisition and trail construction.

42. RANCHO SIERRA VISTA CONNECTOR TRAIL

This proposed trail would connect the National Park Service lands of Rancho Sierra Vista and Circle X Ranch. Its route would cross private property in Ventura County. Some segments of this trail do exist, but completion is necessary for this connection between two major park lands.

Action needed: Right-of-way acquisition and trail construction.

43. LAKE SHERWOOD/OLD BONEY TRAIL

This existing trail connects the Lake Sherwood area to the Boney Wildemess. It crosses privately owned land in both Ventura and Los Angeles Counties.

Action needed: Right-of-way acquisition.

44. PARAMOUNT RANCH CONNECTOR TRAIL

This proposed trail would connect the Old Agoura Equestrian Park to Paramount Ranch. A trail exists from the equestrian park to the Whizin's Mall, but from the mall a trail is needed to Paramount Ranch. Equestrians are currently using road shoulders with heavy vehicular traffic. This area is in the jurisdictions of Agoura Hills and Los Angeles County.

Action needed: Right-of-way acquisition and trail construction.

45. ESCONDIDO FALLS TRAIL

The Escondido Falls are well-known as a jewel of the Santa Monica Mountains Recreation area. The Escondido Falls Trail is existing and shown as #18 on the Los Angeles County Trail Plan. Part of the trail is within the Escondido Canyon Park which is maintained by the Conservancy. However, the section of the trail leading directly to the falls is in private ownership. Above the falls, trails cross Escondido Drive to the Edison-owned property east of Escondido Creek. Below the falls, a historic trail exists on private property and extends to Latigo Canyon Road. This area is in the jurisdictions of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Los Angeles County and the City of Malibu.

Action needed: Acquire rights-of way for the trails which connect to Escondido Falls and for the portion of the Escondido Falls Trail which leads from the Conservancy property to the falls.

46. WESTLAKE CONNECTOR TRAIL

This trail would extend an existing trail through the City of Westlake Village along Lindero Creek and along the edge of the golf course south of the 101 Freeway to Lakeview Canyon Road where there is a trail bridge over the freeway. This would connect Los Angeles County's trail system to Conejo Recreation and Park District's system.

Action needed: Master plan amendment by Westlake Village, right-of-way acquisition, and trail construction.

47. CHATEAU CALABASAS CONNECTOR

This existing trail connects from Mulholland Highway to Calabasas Peak Motonvay. This trail provides access to unique rock formations and trail access for the community of Calabasas Highlands to the Calabasas Peak Motonvay. Most of this trail will soon be in public ownership.

Action needed: Complete right-of-way acquisition.

48. HIDDEN HILLS CONNECTOR

This proposed trail would connect from the Valley Circle Interchange bridge as a spur off the Los Angeles River/Anza Connector (see Missing Link #32). It would extend west beside the frontage road as short distance to the City of Hidden Hills.

Action needed: Trail construction.

49. ZUMA RIDGE/WESTLAKE CONNECTOR

This existing trail is an important connection for Westlake Village and Agoura through Triunfo Canyon. It would connect Triunfo Canyon in Westlake Village to Triunfo Canyon Road in Agoura.

Action needed: Right-of-way acquisition.

50. HOT SPRINGS/RESER VOIR CONNECTOR

This existing trail provides access to Westlake Reservoir from Seminole Hot Springs using Lobo Vista to Western Lobo Canyon to Kanan Road to the Hot Springs.

Action needed: Master plan amendment and right-of-way acquisition.

There is much local agencies can do to preserve and enhance the trail system in the Santa Monica Mountains. Existing and proposed trail routes should be identified and incorporated into their local coastal plans and general plans. Local agencies are also empowered through the permit and land use planning process to reserve sites and secure trail easements. Local agencies should work with the California Coastal Commission to accept the trail easements that the Coastal Commission has secured as offers-to-dedicate through the development process. A comprehensive trail plan should be created by each local government jurisdiction in the Santa Monica Mountains.

The National Park Service and California Department of Parks and Recreation Department should also assist these local governments in achieving their trail goals. The park agencies should inform the local governments of grant applications and funding opportunities for the purchase of trail easements or land sections. The agencies should also help ensure that trail segments are linked between jurisdictions to form a continuous trail system.

We encourage agencies to conduct outreach to real estate agents to inform them about offers-to-dedicate, historic trail use and responsibilities for disclosure to potential buyers.

Los Angeles County is home to over 9 million people, most of whom are within an hour's drive of the Santa Monica Mountains. An integrated trail system linking the beaches to the mountains and the large park areas together would clearly enhance the recreational opportunities available and positively impact the area's lure as a tourist destination. We did not develop priorities for the identified actions needed to complete these Missing Links. We recommend that Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area do so as part of their Land Protection Planning process.

Links Referred to Agencies for Consideration Without Recommendation

The following missing links were suggested by the public following the May, 1997, public open houses, but were beyond the scope of the team as we did not address questions of linkages relating to providing access to different types of trail users. The following list of trail connections were suggested by the public indicating a desire to connect from one area to another while using mountain bicycles. Agencies might consider these requested linkages and determine whether or not such linkages can appropriately and safely be provided. These suggested linkages are provided for informational purposes and are organized by managing agency. They are not shown on the Additional Missing Links Map.

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area

Public comments requested a connector trail from Rancho Sierra Vista to Circle X Ranch outside of the Boney Wilderness area. This might require some right-of-way acquisition in Ventura County and additional trail construction. Additional linkages requested were to connect Leo Carrillo Beach Campground to Malibu Springs, to Circle X Ranch, and to the Backbone Trail. Another connection requested was from Bonsall to Zuma Canyon.

California Department of Parks and Recreation

Public comments requested linkages be provided into Point Mugu State Park from Pacific Coast Highway from the La Jolla campground to Overlook Trail, easing traffic at Sycamore Canyon parking lot and trailhead. Public comments also requested access to Hidden Poind and La Jolla loop trails.

At Malibu Creek State Park, public comments requested linkages from Agoura Hills/Malibu Lake area from Mulholland Drive/Cornell Road. Also requested was use of the Tapia Spur Trail to provide access from Malibu Canyon Road into Malibu Creek State Park.

At Topanga State Park, public comments requested connections from Rogers Road to Rustic Canyon as a means of reducing traffic on the Chicken Ridge section of the Rogers Road Trail and thereby reducing conflicts in this steep section of trail. Additional connections were into Topanga State Park from Pacific Coast Highway to provide access to the Trailer Canyon fire road.

There were also comments requesting the Backbone Trail be opened from Stunt Road to Piuma and in the Hondo Canyon area.

Implementation Recommendations

- I-2. Federal, state and local agencies should implement the needed actions for the 50 identified missing links.
- I-3. Local agencies should identify and incorporate existing and proposed trails (those included here as well as others) into local agencies' coastal and general plans. A comprehensive trail plan should be created by each jurisdiction in the Santa Monica Mountains, including an update of the Los Angeles County Trails Master Plan.
- I-4. Local agencies should use the permit and land use planning process to reserve sites and secure trail easements. Local agencies should work with the Coastal Commission to accept trail easements secured as "offers-to-dedicate" through the development review process.
- I-5. The National Park Service and the California Department of Parks and Recreation should assist local governments by informing them of funding opportunities for trail construction and right-of-way acquisition.
- I-6. The National Park Service, California Department of Parks and Recreation and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy should help ensure trail segments are linked between jurisdictions to form a continuous trail system.
- I-7. While this list of missing links provides a good base of information, there may be more trails that could be identified by local agencies for public protection.
- I-8. The National Park Service should identify priorities for completing these missing links as part of their update of the Land Protection Plan.

Team Members

Laura Fay, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky 's Office, Co-Chair; Neil Braunstein, California Department of State Parks, Co-Chair; Ruth Kilday, Mountains Conservancy Foundation; Susan Heeley, Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council, Malibu Trails Association, Equestrian Trails Inc.; Nancy Hafner, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy; Bertha Ruiz, Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation.

Attachment A. Request Letter



MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

GLORIA MOLINA YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE ZEV VAROSLAVSKY DEANE DANA MICHAEL D ANTONOVICH

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

821 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION / LOS ANGELES. CALIFORNIA 90012

July 29, 1996

Dear Santa Monica Mountains Trails Enthusiast:

Over the past year a coalition of trail user organizations and public agencies has been meeting in order to improve the Santa Monica Mountains trails system. This group, called SMMART (Santa Monica Mountains Area Recreational Trails), has divided itself into teams which focus on achieving specific goals.

As co-chair of the "Missing Links" team, I invite you to assist us in this effort. Our team seeks to identify popular trails and trail connections which are not mapped on the Los Angeles County Master Plan, but are in use by the public. We are also seeking information on additional trails or trail improvements that your organization feels are needed in the publicly-owned lands. Once this information is compiled, we will notify the appropriate public agencies of the community's trail priorities.

You may use the enclosed map to identify the "missing links". The map shows in color the publicly-owned lands in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Existing trails are shown in light red, and trails on the master plan are shown by the dark red hatched lines. Trails included in the master plan are numbered on the map and named in the attached key.

Please indicate for us the following:

- * trails used by your group that are not on public land. Indicate existing trails which are already mapped (the light red lines on the map) by highlighting over them with a yellow highlighter. Please write in the name of the trail.
- * trails used by your group that are not shown on the map. Please use a blue pen to draw in these trails, label them if they are named and also identify the trail as "existing".
- * trail connections on private land that you would like to see established. Please include destination points. You may approximate these locations with a pencil. Please label the route as "non-existing".

- * trails or trail connections on public land that you would like to see established. Please include destination points and label the route as "non-existing". You may approximate these locations with a pencil.
- * a contact person and phone number for your organization. Please write this directly on the map.
- * the number of your members using the trails that you have identified.

Please return the map to us by Monday, September 9. You may bring it to us at a future SMMART meeting, or call us so that we can pick it up.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call me at (818) 880-9416. You may also contact Neil Braunstein, "Missing Links" co-chair, at California State Parks at (818) 880-0363. For more information regarding the overall SMMART process, or if you would like to be added to the mailing list, call Holly Van Houten in the San Francisco office of the National Park Service at (415) 744-3975.

We could not complete our goal to identify the "missing links" in the Santa Monica Mountains without your assistance. Thank you for helping us in our efforts.

Sincerely,

Laura Fay Field Deputy to Supervisor Yaroslavsky

Attachments

Distribution List:

- 1. Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council
- 2. ETI Corral 63
- 3. Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association (CORBA)
- 4. Malibu Trails Association
- 5. Sierra Club
- 6. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
- 7. National Park Service
- 8. Topanga Association for a Scenic Community (TASC)
- 9. Topanga Hist orical Society
- 10. Santa Monica Mountains Area Recreational Trails (SMMART)
- 11. Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency (COSCA)
- 12. Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation
- 13. Mountains Restoration Trust